

- (2) have they finally decided to work up that scheme;
- (3) what is the approximate cost of the same;
- (4) how they propose to find the necessary funds for same?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) The scheme prepared by the Chief Engineer has been forwarded to Messrs. Rendell Palmer and Tritton, Consulting Engineers, for opinion.

(2) The opinion of the Consulting Engineers is awaited, before launching on the scheme.

(3) The approximate cost will be Rs. 43 lakhs.

(4) The Government have not come to a decision on the question.

Applications for Council Secretaryship.

6. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether applications for the post of the Secretary to the Legislative Council were invited before the vacancy to that post was filled up;

(2) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether anybody else applied for it; and if so, their names?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) No; because there was no necessity for it.

(2) Mr. A. Narayana Menon and Mr. N. Raman Nambudiripad had applied.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Why is it that they did not find any necessity for inviting any applications?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—In the case of such important appointments it has been the experience of the Government that even without formally inviting the applications the necessary number of applications will generally come.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I take it that the Government does not mean to invite applications in the case of important appointments?

Rama Varmha Tampran.—Even without inviting applications there have been any number of applications.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Is that the policy of the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is not a policy. It is a matter of routine and practice.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Were the qualifications of the applicants considered before the appointment was made?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—May I know what are the superior qualifications of the gentleman employed in preference to the other applicants?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The present Secretary has been a Member of this House and he has had ample opportunities of following the actual working of this House and has gained much experience.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Were they sure that other Members of this House would not have come forward if they had invited the applications?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is a problematical question and I cannot answer that.

Teaching of Hindi.

7. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether Hindi has been taught as an optional subject in any of the schools or Colleges of the State;

(2) if so, the number of schools in which it is taught?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(1) Yes; in schools only.

(2) Ten.

Culvert—Vallachira Panchayat Road.

8. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are aware of the inconvenience caused to the public by not constructing a culvert towards the western end of the Vallachira Panchayat road which has been recently improved;

(2) the reason why they have not provided for one when they constructed the road;

(3) whether they have received petitions from the inhabitants of Vallachira praying for the construction of a tank in the village;

(4) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, what they propose to do in the matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(1) Yes.

(2) It was then thought that an Irish drain would serve the purpose.

(3) Yes.

(4) Necessary enquiries are being made.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Did the original budget for the improvement of the road include the construction of the culvert?